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AUG 11 2000

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 7, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

I reside in Sacramento County and my family has property in Mendocino County. I am concerned about the Cal-Fed Final Programmatic EIS/EIR and I ask two things:

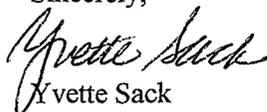
- 1. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments.** I cannot adequately review the thousands of pages in the time allowed.
- 2. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects on us.** The public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss this document. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will affect us, it's the right thing to do.

Comments: I believe that by trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan could actually harm it. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production will dramatically change the face of California agriculture. It will have a huge impact on the environment and local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acres of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. The wildlife is present because of the habitat provided by farmers and ranchers. History shows that the government has not done a good job of protecting and repopulating these species. Cooperative arrangements with landowners have worked better.

The Cal-Fed plan is flawed. I am disappointed that Cal-Fed and its agencies turned a deaf ear to the more than 1,000 representatives of agriculture who attended your 16 hearings last year. Of the 800 people who spoke, most were farmers, ranchers, their families and neighbors. They are stewards of the environment, managing land and water that produce food, wildlife and oxygen.

Sincerely,


Yvette Sack

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein Senator Barbara Boxer Governor Gray Davis
Congressman Robert Matsui State Sen. Patrick Johnston Rep. Anthony Pescetti
Sacramento Board of Supervisors

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